

Through The Wilderness:

A Journey Together

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A constant theme in the bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is that of wilderness. It is a place, an idea, and a feeling. And what the bible shows us about the wilderness tells us a lot about how we should view our personal spiritual (and physical) journey through life.

Even the Hebrew word for wilderness (*midbar*) implies momentum, driving forward, and a journey with a purpose. There is a sense of forward momentum, of being spurred forward...not simply plopping down and staying, but rather moving FROM something TO something else.


The main focus of this class is to investigate our journey through this wilderness of life.

Recognize that we are all united in this time and in this place. We will study what the Bible has to say to us regarding this spiritual wilderness journey.

Be assured that you are not alone on this journey!

I will also share some specific counseling philosophies and techniques that are

consistent with the Bible that can help ourselves and assist us in helping others as we journey together through the wilderness.



Part 1 - Identifying the Wilderness Journey

Section 1 - Introduction

4 Parts to Course:

1. Identifying the Wilderness Journey
2. Perspective for the Wilderness Journey
3. Helping Others Through the Wilderness Journey
4. Finishing the Wilderness Journey



Mount Whitney Journey...

In the dark with head lamps... many provide more light.

Easier to accomplish with others

Obstacles



Mount Whitney Journey...

The Exodus from Egypt as a shadow of things to come...

Deuteronomy 18 – Moses/Jesus

I Corinthians 5 - The Plagues and Passover

I Corinthians 10 - Baptism

John 6 - Sustenance

Revelation – On Eagle's Wings

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a **Prophet** like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Moses was a type of Christ

Moses as a type of Christ

Revelation 11:8

And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and **Egypt**, where also our Lord was crucified.

Egypt represented sin

Just like the Israelites being in bondage to Egypt physically, we were in bondage to sin spiritually.

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Hapi- Egyptian God of the Nile

This Egyptian God was a water bearer.

Egyptian Plague- Water Turned to Blood

Reference:

http://www.stat.rice.edu/~dobelman/Dinotech/10_Egyptian_gods_10_Plagues.pdf

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods

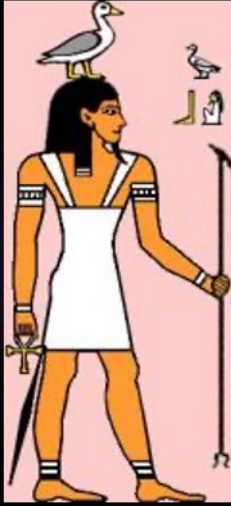


Heket- Egyptian Goddess of Fertility, Water, Renewal

Heket the Egyptian Goddess, had the head of a frog.

Egyptian Plague- Frogs coming from the Nile River

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Geb- Egyptian God of the Earth

The Egyptian God Geb, was over the dust of the earth.

Egyptian Plague- Lice from the dust of the earth

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



***Khepri- Egyptian God of creation,
movement of the Sun, rebirth***

Khepri, the Egyptian god had the head of a fly.

Egyptian Plague- Swarms of Flies

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Hathor-Egyptian Goddess of Love and Protection

Usually this Egyptian Goddess was depicted with the head of a cow.

Egyptian Plague- Death of Cattle and Livestock

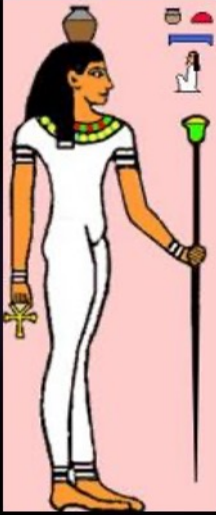
10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Isis- Egyptian Goddess of Medicine and Peace

Egyptian Plague- Ashes turned to Boils and Sores

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Nut- Egyptian Goddess of the Sky

Egyptian Plague- Hail rained down in the form of fire

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Seth- Egyptian God of Storms and Disorder

*Egyptian Plague- **Locusts sent from the sky***

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Ra- The Sun God

Egyptian Plague- Three Days of Complete Darkness

10 Plagues against Egyptian gods



Pharaoh- The Ultimate Power of Egypt

Egyptian Plague- Death of the Firstborn

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was worshipped by the Egyptians because he was considered to be the greatest Egyptian God of all. It was believed that he was actually the son of Ra himself, manifest in the flesh.

At this point the passive obedience that the children of Israel have shown is now moved to a level of active obedience. They are given strict instructions to follow so that they do not also feel the judgment of this last plague sent by the Lord.



Passover lamb was a type of Christ

The passover lamb was a prophetic picture of the Lord Jesus and his atoning death. The Savior was introduced by John the Baptizer as "the lamb of God" (Jn. 1:29). Paul emphatically stated that "our passover" lamb is Christ (1 Cor. 5:7).

I Corinthians 5:7

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our **Passover**, was sacrificed for us.

Leaven was a representation of sin

Recall Passover began with the plagues in Egypt...

I Corinthians 10:1-5

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

Red Sea Crossing was a type of baptism

I Corinthians 10:1-5

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*Manna and water from rock represented
The spiritual sustenance in Christ*

John 4:13-14.

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 6

³² Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

⁴⁸ **I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."**

⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit**, and *they* are life.

Exodus 13:17

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”

[In the desert](#), the Israelites had run low on provisions ([Numbers 11:5](#)). It gets to the point where the Israelites wish for the “good ole days” of their slavery in Egypt, where they didn’t have to worry about starvation.

When Pharaoh let the people go, God didn’t lead them on the road that made the most sense. The Bible tells us in [Exodus 13](#), that though the path was shorter right through the Philistine country, God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” [Exodus 13:17](#)

Do we do the same spiritually?

I John 2:15-17


“Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. **And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever”**

Israel’s situation is a good analogy for our journey through the wilderness of this physical life, and we must be careful not to fall prey to the same tendencies. They saw how God had destroyed the Egyptians and brought them out of slavery, and were probably high-fiving each other and thinking how easy it would be from now on. But they were blind to how much of Egypt they were carrying out with them.

Just like with Israel and Egypt, this world is constantly trying to lure us back.

Because just like Israel, whether we realize it or not we are carrying pieces of this carnal world in our hearts and minds—what John calls **the “lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”** (I John 2:15-17).



The only way to reach the Promised Land lies through the wilderness!

As we reflect on our journey through the wilderness and toward the eternal Promised Land, we must ask ourselves—where am I letting the world pull me back in?

Egypt is always trying to call us back, and we must spend every day of our journey in the wilderness fighting that pull. The apostle Paul gave the Corinthians a sobering reminder of this, using the Israelites as his example:

"[The Israelites] all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses...all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink...but with most of them God was not well pleased...

Now these things became our examples, that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted...therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:1-12)

Num. 21:5

"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless [insubstantial, disgusting] bread"

But after about a year of seeing the manna appear every morning, they started to lose sight of how amazing God's sustenance in the wilderness was. They stopped valuing it, and eventually even came to despise it. Again, they complained against God and Moses:

Are people doing this spiritually today?

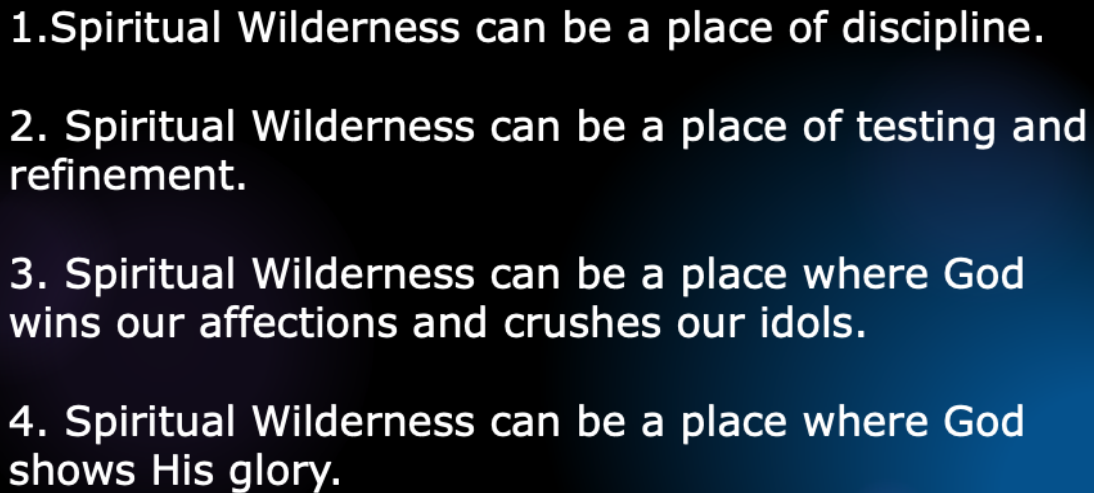
How so?



Why Go Through The Wilderness?

The wilderness is a place of testing and trial for God's people, intended to develop humility and perseverance and teach us to fully rely on Him to provide.

***"...So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know...that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord"
(Deut. 8:3)***

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1. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place of discipline.
 2. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place of testing and refinement.
 3. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place where God wins our affections and crushes our idols.
 4. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place where God shows His glory.

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The Spiritual Wilderness Is Not a Waste – 4 Reasons

By [Dustin Crowe](#) -September 22, 2021

Exodus 13:22

22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

God never leaves us and is always there to lead us through the wilderness


When Israel left Egypt and entered the wilderness, they had to completely rely on God.

God led them through the wilderness. Only God knows the path to get to the Promised Land.

Revelation 12:14


But the woman was given two **wings** of a great **eagle**, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.





It's interesting to note that Pharaoh (as a symbol for society and worldly ideas) thought that the Israelites were confused, even though they were being led by God (Ex. 14:3).

This is still the case for us today as well...society looks at us with confusion, condemnation or even outright hostility when they see us heading away from this world and into the wilderness, following God and not man.



We are connected by
time and place...

Helping each other in the wilderness at the root of finding fulfillment in life...